

From: James B. Czebotar
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Micro\$oft \$ettlement

Greetings.

My name is James Czebotar. I work for Washington State University as a Computer Support Analyst. I have worked in the field of computers my entire adult life. I feel it is my duty as a citizen to express my opinions and experiences regarding Microsoft and its operation as in illegal monopoly as already ruled.

I have witnessed Microsoft's monopolistic tentacles first hand. When I started working on WSU's campus, Netscape was the most common browser. Other then the obvious practice of bundling Internet Explorer with Windows 9x/NT, other more subtle methods of forcing IE upon my department sprang up.

Among them:

Requiring IE to install other MS related products. For example, if you want to install Microsoft's IntelliMouse software 4.01, mouse drivers for MS's Mouse, you must install IE first. Why is IE necessary for mouse drivers?

Other departments are adopting proprietary IE only systems. Professors are creating IE only web sites, requiring IE to be used by their students. Some of those Profs and Departments benefit from MS grants. A cozy arrangement.

WSU's Administration Departments are developing and using systems which require IE/Outlook to function. For example, they send out budget information to our department in an MS Outlook Encrypted format, as well as forcing us to use IE to use their online web based functions.

I have held out for years, giving IE only to the select few who can demonstrate a need for it. IE and Outlook are notorious for their security flaws, the main reason I try to keep my department away from them. However I couldn't fight the tide forever, and this year I have little choice but to implement IE on all 500+ of our computers. A fellow employee put it quite well as I was updating his machine: "Now that I have IE, why do I need Netscape?" Most of our employees have IE at home, being that their computers came with it. They have been conditioned like Pavlov's Dog.

I can only speculate as to the financial arrangements between WSU and MS. In a proper competitive setting, WSU should be buying software and adopting standards based on common capitalistic parameters, such as

prices, quality, support, etc. In reality, it appears as if MS has its tentacles around WSU, giving out ca\$h and \$oftware in order to secure a foothold of MS products on campus.

I am disappointed that the new administration has backed off and wants to settle with Microsoft. However I am not surprised. Anyone who monitors politics is fully aware of the reality of the dominance of special interests and their control over the system. My voice in this matter is so small it is almost silent, but I feel I must speak out nonetheless. For if I don't, I have no one to blame but myself when we must all follow them whims of

MicrsoftAOLTimeWarnerGeneralElectricSonyExxonWalMartGMFordATTVerizon

Thank you for your time, and your consideration of my comments.

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"He who knows nothing is closer to the truth than he whose mind is
filled with falsehoods and errors."
[Thomas Jefferson]